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United Nations Forum on Forests
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Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030.
   (a) Policy dialogue on the thematic and operational priorities, priority actions and resource needs for the period 2017–2018, taking into account the review cycle of the high-level political forum on sustainable development during the biennium and the theme of the International Day of Forests;
   (b) Voluntary announcement of voluntary national contributions;
   (c) United Nations system-wide contributions to the implementation of the global forest goals and targets;
   (d) Development of the communication and outreach strategy for the strategic plan.
4. Monitoring, assessment and reporting:
   (a) Progress on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, including the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions;
   (b) Progress on the development of global forest indicators.
5. Means of implementation:
   (a) Progress on the activities and operation of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network;
   (b) Guidelines for the operation of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network;

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(c) Measures to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network.

6. Emerging issues and challenges.

7. Trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests.

8. Information on intersessional activities.

9. Progress on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33.

10. Date and venue for the fourteenth session of the Forum.

11. Provisional agenda for the fourteenth session of the Forum.

12. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its thirteenth session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the United Nations Forum on Forests shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chair and such other officers as may be required (see E/5975/Rev.1). In accordance with Council resolution 2000/35, by which the Forum was established, the Bureau of the Forum shall consist of a Chair and four Vice-Chairs, one of whom shall also act as Rapporteur, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

At the first meeting of its thirteenth session, on 5 May 2017, the Forum elected Mr. Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Yaakob (Malaysia) as Chair and Mr. Macharia Kamau (Kenya), Mr. Tomas Krejzar (Czechia), Ms. Luciana Melchert Saguas Presas (Brazil) and Ms. Maureen Whelan (Canada) as Vice-Chairs of the Forum at its thirteenth session.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In accordance with rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Forum shall, at the beginning of the session, adopt the agenda and organization of work for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (E/CN.18/2018/1)

3. Implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

(a) Policy dialogue on the thematic and operational priorities, priority actions and resource needs for the period 2017–2018, taking into account the review cycle of the high-level political forum on sustainable development during the biennium and the theme of the International Day of Forests

In accordance with the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum, the thirteenth session will focus on policy dialogue on the thematic and operational priorities, priority actions and resource needs for the period 2017–2018, with the engagement of, and exchange of experiences among, members of the Forum, member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, regional and subregional organizations, major groups and other relevant stakeholders. These discussions will

take into account the theme and review cycle of the high-level political forum on sustainable development for the period 2017–2018 and the theme of the International Day of Forests in 2018 (Forests and sustainable cities). Under this item, the Forum will provide its contribution to the follow-up, review and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets under consideration by the 2018 high-level political forum. Emerging issues and challenges of global significance that are related to and/or have an impact on forests and sustainable forest management will also be discussed under this agenda item.

(b) Voluntary announcement of voluntary national contributions

In accordance with the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 (see General Assembly resolution 71/285), Member States may, on a voluntary basis, determine their contributions towards achieving the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan (voluntary national contributions), taking into account their national circumstances, policies, priorities, capacities, levels of development and forest conditions. Member States and stakeholders may wish to make a voluntary announcement of their voluntary national contributions during the thirteenth session of the Forum under this agenda item. Voluntary national contributions that have been announced since the twelfth session of the Forum are contained in the note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 (E/CN.18/2018/2).

(c) United Nations system-wide contributions to the implementation of the global forest goals and targets

The United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 serves as a reference for the forest-related work of the United Nations system and for fostering enhanced coherence, collaboration and synergies among United Nations bodies and partners towards its vision and mission, as well as a framework to enhance the coherence of and guide and focus the work of the international arrangement on forests and its components. As outlined in the strategic plan, United Nations bodies, organizations and specialized agencies that address issues that are relevant to forests, within the scope of their mandates, were invited to use the strategic plan as a reference with a view to building synergies between the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan and their respective policies and programmes, including their contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. United Nations system organizations and partners may wish to inform the Forum of their planned activities to contribute to the achievement of the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan under this agenda item.

(d) Development of the communication and outreach strategy for the strategic plan

In accordance with the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum, the thirteenth session will consider the communication and outreach strategy for the strategic plan. The strategy should identify, inter alia, target audiences, key messages, methods, activities and success criteria. Elements for the strategy have been prepared for the consideration of the Forum under this agenda item and are set out in an annex to document E/CN.18/2018/2.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 (E/CN.18/2018/2)

Note by the Secretariat on the contribution by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations, regional and subregional organizations and

processes, and major groups and other stakeholders to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 (E/CN.18/2018/3)

4. Monitoring, assessment and reporting

(a) Progress on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, including the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions

In accordance with the resolution adopted at the twelfth session of the Forum, the Secretariat was requested to further revise the format for voluntary national reporting on the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, including the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions. Members of the Forum decided to consider at its thirteenth session the cycle and format for the voluntary national reporting to the Forum. A revised format has been prepared for the consideration of the Forum under this agenda item. The revised format is the result of consultations with Member States, member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the views expressed during the twelfth session and pilot testing of the draft format by interested members of the Forum from the five regional groups.

(b) Progress on the development of global forest indicators

The Forum, in the resolution adopted at its twelfth session, also noted the ongoing work led by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to develop a set of global forest indicators, in particular on sustainable forest management, for use in assessing progress on the global forest goals and targets set out in the strategic plan, the forest-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and other international forest-related commitments, and invited the Partnership to present its proposal for consideration by the Forum at its thirteenth session, to be held in May 2018. Information on the proposed set of global forest indicators is submitted for the consideration of the Forum under this agenda item.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on monitoring, assessment and reporting on progress towards implementing the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and the United Nations forest instrument (E/CN.18/2018/4)

5. Means of implementation

The Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network, established in accordance with Council resolution 2015/33, works in close cooperation with Member States and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to contribute to the implementation of sustainable forest management by mobilizing, catalysing and facilitating access to financial resources. The note by the Secretariat under this agenda item provides a summary of activities of the Network since the twelfth session of the Forum and provides a basis for discussion of the guidelines for the operation of the Network, as well as measures to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the Network, at the thirteenth session of the Forum, in 2018.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on means of implementation for sustainable forest management (E/CN.18/2018/5)

6. Emerging issues and challenges

In accordance with the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum for the period 2017–2020, the Forum may decide to include in the agenda of any of its sessions emerging issues and challenges of global significance that are related to and/or have an impact on forests and sustainable forest management and that are urgent, unexpected and not already addressed in the agenda of the respective session. For the present session, a discussion on item 6, entitled "Emerging issues and challenges", will be held as part of the policy dialogue under item 3 (a).

7. Trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests

Pursuant to the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum for the period 2017–2020, the Forum secretariat is to report at each session on the operation of the Forum trust fund.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the Forum trust fund (E/CN.18/2018/7)

8. Information on intersessional activities

Various intersessional activities have been carried out since the twelfth session of the Forum in relation to items 3, 4 and 5, and information on these activities is contained in the respective documents under each of these items.

9. Progress in the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33

In accordance with Council resolution 2015/33 (para. 56) and its quadrennial programme of work for the period 2017–2020, at its thirteenth session the Forum should receive a progress report with regard to the implementation of Council resolution 2015/33.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33 (E/CN.18/2018/6)

10. Date and venue for the fourteenth session of the Forum

The Forum shall recommend to the Economic and Social Council the dates and venue of its fourteenth session.

11. Provisional agenda for the fourteenth session of the Forum

The Forum shall recommend to the Economic and Social Council, for adoption, a provisional agenda for the fourteenth session.

12. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its thirteenth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Forum shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its session.